

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments, and the following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 84-90 are now pending in this application, with Claims 84 and 86 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 84-86 and 88.

Claims 84-90 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,129,011 (Nishikawa, et al.). Applicant traverses this rejection.

As recited in independent Claim 84, Applicant's invention is directed to a method of creating an image formed of a plurality of bands, the bands being formed independently of data included in the band, with each of the bands representing an independently displayable portion of the image. Each of the bands is stored as independent compressed pixel image data such that each of the bands is configured for independent manipulation through at least the compression of the band. The manipulation comprises at least compositing the decompressed pixel data of at least one decompressed band with one or more further bands of pixel data prior to recompressing the composited pixel data of the decompressed band.

As recited in independent Claim 86, Applicant's invention is also directed to a method of creating an image formed as a plurality of bands, the bands being formed independently of data included in the bands, with each of the bands representing an independently displayable portion of the image. The method includes a step of storing each of the bands as independent compressed pixel image data. Another step involves manipulating one or more bands of the image by effecting multiple passes over the bands, wherein each of the bands is configured for independent manipulation through at least decompression of the band. Similar to Claim 84, the manipulation comprises at least compositing the decompressed pixel data of at least one decompressed band with one or more further bands of pixel data prior to recompressing the composited pixel data of the decompressed band.

With the configurations recited in independent Claims 84 and 86, the invention generally involves compressing bands representing independently displayable portions of an image, with the bands being formed independently of the type of data included in the bands. Thus configured, only a small amount of memory need be used to retain a particular decompressed band, so that various manipulation functions can be performed on the decompressed pixel image data. This allows for band-by-band manipulation of the image, with the remaining bands of the image still being compressed.

The Office Action states that one of ordinary skill in the art would arrive at the present invention in view of Nishikawa, et al. The Office Action acknowledges that Nishikawa, et al. “does not explicitly teach the sections are in the form of ‘bands’ as claimed.” However, the Office Action asserts that Nishikawa, et al. suggests the formation of bands because a “band” would be a natural shape when dealing with an image having a rectangular form. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

At column 1, lines 50-57, Nishikawa, et al. states that one problem with the prior art occurs “when a large-sized source image such as an A0 or A1-sized drawing is uniformly reduced so as to be fitted with a screen having the normal A4 size. In recording the image on a recording medium, such as an optical disk, the image is compressed due to the thinned-out operation affected during the reduction, and there is a problem that a distinguishing part of each image cannot be judged for legibility in reproduction.” Nishikawa, et al. appears to solve this problem by dividing an image into partial images 1-9, as shown in Figure 2. Partial images 1-9 are blocks of the input image that can be displayed without size reduction. Consequently, Applicant submits that Nishikawa, et al. teaches away from forming a plurality of bands to be compressed since, if the partial image of Nishikawa, et al. was a band of the input image, then the band of the original image would still need to be reduced in order to be displayed in the smaller (e.g., A4 size) screen. Thus, such a modification of Nishikawa, et al. would suffer

from the problem acknowledged in that patent -- namely, the reduced image would not be able to be judged for legibility when displayed. Thus, Applicant submits that Nishikawa, et al. would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to divide an image into blocks, instead of bands, to avoid the need to reduce the size of the bands for display.

The Office Action also takes the position that Nishikawa, et al. teaches rendering, composition, or editing of an image, as described at column 6, lines 40-52, of that patent. However, that section of the patent states that “with the read index data, only the central partial image of the source image is read and expanded into image data.” The patent further states that the expanded image data is transferred to a control unit and displayed on a CRT. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Nishikawa, et al. merely describes displaying a decompressed partial image. Applicant does not believe that that document suggests manipulation of a decompressed band, the manipulation including compositing decompressed pixel data of at least one decompressed band with one or more further bands of pixel data prior to recompressing the composited pixel data of the band.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Nishikawa, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of a plurality of bands, the bands being formed independently of data included in the bands, and each of the bands representing an independently displayable portion of an image, wherein each of the bands is stored as independent compressed pixel image data such that each of the bands is configured for independent manipulation, and wherein the manipulation comprises at least compositing decompressed pixel data of at least one decompressed band with one or more further bands of pixel data prior to recompressing the composited pixel data of the decompressed band, as generally recited in independent Claims 84 and 86.

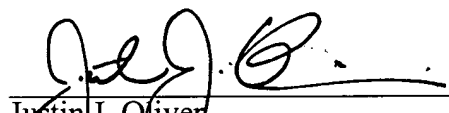
The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and thus are patentable over Nishikawa, et al. for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recites

features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied patent. Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration thereof.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and allowance of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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